

ABSTRACT

A gripping device for a horse's hoof to spread shock and concussive forces evenly through the device, distribute pressure over the entire surface of the hoof, provide improved traction with the surface on which the hoof contacts, and enhance therapeutic shoeing applications. The gripping device comprises an elastomeric or polymeric material integrally molded to a gripping plate, the gripping plate including a raised traction section that extends above the elastomer and may form a traction chamber. The gripping device may be used with a removable cushion plate that is fittable within the traction chamber and/or in conjunction with a removable hospital plate that overlies and permits access to an injury to the hoof, include one or more clips for engagement with the front or side of the hoof, the clip(s) being integrally formed with the gripping plate or the elastomer, and include arcuate stiffening ribs and a toe calk.

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